

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicants have more-particularly claimed Applicants' invention. As now more-particularly claimed, the layers of the lacquer material of phosphate or silicate mixed with a particle are converted to form a **single glass layer**. Applicants respectfully submit that even if McMordie and Ivkovich disclose multilayered coatings, that the multilayered coatings in McMordie and Ivkovich are not converted to form a single glass layer, as now claimed by Applicants.

Applicants have amended independent claims 25 and 35 to claim this feature. Further, Applicants have also amended withdrawn independent claims 17, 31, and 34 to claim this feature. Thus, since the withdrawn independent claims and independent claims 25 and 35 all now claim the same special technical feature, which is not disclosed in the prior art, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims do not lack from unity of invention and also respectfully request that withdrawn independent claims 17, 31, and 34, and the claims that depend therefrom, be re-entered in the patent application.

As discussed above, and as now claimed, the layers of the lacquer material of phosphate or silicate mixed with a particle are converted to form a **single glass layer**. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature of Applicants' invention is clearly disclosed in Applicants' specification at least at paras. 0018-0019. As described, after application of each layer, the coated component is subjected to a conversion treatment in which the coated component is heated and then cooled. In this conversion process, the layers originally separated from one another will undergo a uniform phosphate glass bonding or silicate glass bonding. The layers originally separated from one another are thus converted to a single phosphate glass layer or silicate glass layer, whereby the different particles are embedded in the phosphate glass layer or the silicate glass layer depending on the distance of the particles from the surface of the component to be coated. Thus, the gradual difference in design and/or the gradual difference in composition of the coating is retained but without the problems of separate layers and/or coatings.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither McMordie nor Ivkovich, even if the references disclose a multilayered coating, disclose Applicants' claimed feature where the multilayer coating forms a single glass layer. In McMordie, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, the coating is comprised of a first layer and a second layer. These layers must remain separate because the first layer is galvanically sacrificial, i.e., it is more active than the underlying substrate and will corrode in place of the less active substrate, and the second layer is non-conductive. Col. 8, lines 8-10. As further disclosed in McMordie, "[i]t is an essential feature of the invention that the second layer be non-conductive." The "coating of the invention, comprising a non-conductive second layer between a sacrificial first layer and an organic polymer sealer layer, has been unexpectedly found to resist corrosion and delamination between the inorganic and organic layers of the coating." Col. 8, lines 58-64.

In Ivkovich, if a single tape is used for the coating, the tape is formed of multiple layers of different compositions and applied as a unit to the substrate to form an innermost layer and an outermost layer on the substrate. If multiple tapes are used, a first tape is applied to the substrate to form the innermost layer and a second tape is applied to form the outermost layer. The tape/tapes are then sintered to form innermost and outermost layers on the substrate. See Abstract.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that even if McMordie and Ivkovich disclose multilayered coatings, neither McMordie nor Ivkovich disclose Applicants' claimed feature where the multilayer coating forms a single glass layer. Sambasivan does not cure the deficiencies of Ivkovich since Sambasivan was only used by the Examiner in the Office Action with Ivkovich for the feature of an antifouling layer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please

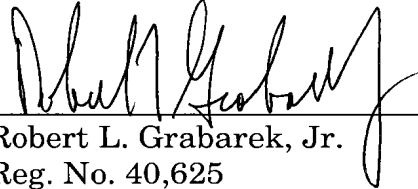
charge any such fee, any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayments to
Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 011235.57206US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

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